

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11 and 14-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht et al. (US PAT. 6,052,258). Albrecht teaches a method of making electrical connection between conductive layers by forming a round via in at least one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that connection between the first and second conductive layers is made by forming a stepped back edge on the dielectric layer and one of the conductive layers. Claim 1 as amended also recites that the first conductive layer overhangs the dielectric layer. Support for this amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 12, lines 4-11, and with reference to Fig. 2.

As can be appreciated, forming one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer with a stepped back edge as recited in amended claim 1 eliminates the extra step of forming a via or hole in one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer, thereby simplifying manufacture. Albrecht teaches forming a hole in one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer there between. This can be seen, for example, in the description of Fig. 17 in column 8, line 51 through 63 of Albrecht. Albrecht is silent as to the use of stepped back edges to form exposed portions of conductive layers and dielectric layers to make electrical contact between conductive layers. Albrecht does not anticipate or make obvious, this cost and time saving method for electrically connecting conductive components.

The Applicant has added new claim 6 to further recite that the conductive material extends under the overhanging portion of the first conductive layer.

Because Albrecht does not teach or suggest the method described in claim 1, claim 1 is allowable as amended. Claims 3-5, 9-10, 15-16 and new claim 29 which all depend from allowable claim 1 are therefore, necessarily, allowable over the prior art as well.

The Applicant sincerely believes that the remaining claims in this application are allowable as amended. A notice of allowance is, therefore, requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at (408) 971-2573.

For payment of any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-2587 (Order No. SJ09000001US2)

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Ronald B. Feece/ Date: 8/10/2007
Ronald B. Feece
Reg. No. 46,327

Zilka-Kotab, PC
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, California 95172-1120
Telephone: (408) 971-2573
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660